

(b) whether Government have instructed five major private companies to keep away from purchasing wheat from Punjab and Haryana to achieve the said target; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by the Food Corporation of India and State agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, based on estimates given by State Food Secretaries, before the start of Rabi Marketing Seasons (RMS) 2007-08, the procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08 is estimated at 151.5 lakh tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Price of sugar

†3242. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that whole sale price of sugar in the country has come down to Rs. 1400-1500-per quintal at present compared to Rs. 1900-2000 per quintal in recent months;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and the wholesale price of sugar in domestic market during March and April, 2007;

(c) whether it is a fact that the actual price of sugar to be exported from the country has been fixed at Rs. 1,275 per quintal for its shipment;

(d) if not, the facts thereof, and

(e) the reasons responsible for fixed low price of sugar for foreign consumers compared to domestic consumers by the sugar industry?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The wholesale price of sugar in the four metropolitan cities of the country *viz.* Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai which ranged between Rs. 1655-1980 per quintal in October, 2006, came down to Rs. 1425-1615 per quintal in March, 2007 and further to Rs. 1360-1600 per quintal in April, 2007.

(c) The Central Government has not fixed any price of sugar meant for export.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Making sugar industry free from bondages

†3243.SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to free sugar industry from all bondages;

(b) whether Government intend to do away with the necessity of selling sugar to Government at lower rates for ration shops;

(c) if so, Government's policy on providing sugar to BPL people at lower rate;

(d) whether Government are going to do away with the system of "Ganna Kshetra Aarakshan" and "SAP"; and

(e) if so, the arrangements being made by Government to safeguard in the interests of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Government takes appropriate measures, as and when needed, to bring necessary changes in sugar policy.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.